

Patent Appl. No. 10/824,412

Response Dated September 14, 2005
Reply to Office Action dated June 14, 2005

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently amended): A negative selection method for enriching and recovering desired non-hematopoietic cells in a sample containing the non-hematopoietic desired cells, erythrocytes and undesired cells comprising:

- (1) contacting the sample with an antibody composition comprising (a) at least one antibody that binds to an antigen on the undesired cells (1) antibodies capable of binding to the antigen CD45; and (2) antibodies capable of binding to the antigen CD 66b linked, either directly or indirectly, to (b) at least one antibody that binds to the erythrocytes, under conditions to allow immunorosettes of the undesired cells and the erythrocytes to form; and
- (2) separating the immunorosettes from the sample to obtain a sample enriched in the desired non-hematopoietic cells.

Claim 2 (original): A method according to claim 1 wherein the immunorosettes are separated in step (2) by density separation.

Claim 3 (original): A method according to claim 1 wherein the immunorosettes are separated in step (2) by sedimentation.

Claim 4 (Canceled)

Claim 5 (Currently amended): A method according to claim 4 1 wherein antibody (a) further comprises antibodies capable of binding to the antigen CD36.

Claim 6 (Currently amended): A method according to claim 4 1 wherein antibody (a) further comprises antibodies capable of binding to the antigen CD2, CD16, CD19, CD36 and/or CD38.

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Claim 7 (Currently amended): A method according to claim 1 for the enrichment and recovery of non-hematopoietic tumor cells wherein antibody (a) comprises antibodies capable of binding to the antigen (1) CD45; and (2) CD66b.

Claim 8 (original): A method according to claim 7 wherein antibody (a) further comprises antibodies capable of binding to the antigen CD36.

Claim 9 (original): A method according to claim 7 for the enrichment and recovery of epithelial tumor cells.

Claim 10 (original): A method according to claim 7 wherein antibody (a) further comprises antibodies capable of binding to the antigens CD2, CD16, CD19, CD36 and/or CD38.

Claim 11 (original): A method according to claim 1 wherein the antibody (b) that binds to the erythrocyte is anti-glycophorin A.

Claim 12 (original): A method according to claim 1 wherein the antibody composition comprises tetrameric antibody complexes comprising (a) an antibody that binds to the antigen on the undesired cells; and (b) an antibody that binds to the erythrocytes; and (c) two antibodies that bind to the Fc fragment of the antibodies defined in (a) and (b), wherein the antibodies in (a) and (b) are of the same animal species and the antibodies in (c) are of a different animal species from the antibodies in (a) and (b).

Claims 13-20 (Canceled).